



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masato TAKAHASHI

Group Art Unit: 2851

Application No.: 10/023,653

Examiner: P. Kim

Filed: December 21, 2001

Docket No.: 110975

For: STAGE APPARATUS, VIBRATION CONTROL METHOD AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the September 11, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-7 and 12-15. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions". It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also is requested to consider the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 21, 2001 and on February 8, 2002. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if, for some reason, either of these Information Disclosure Statements are not present in the Patent Office file.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

MAC/ccs

Date: September 26, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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